



South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SD STATE FAIR TO “SALUTE” SOUTH DAKOTA’S VETERANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL



Inside this issue:

Davison County Outreach	2
USS South Dakota	2
R.O.C. Medal Presentation	3
Sen. Thune Visits MJFSVH	3
SDNG Update	4-5
State Veterans Home Update	6
New Regs. for Veterans Home Construction	7
SFVAHCS Flu Shot Schedule	8
Grand Patriots	9
American Heroes Outdoors	10
Upcoming Events	11

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman will be the keynote speaker at the “Salute to Veterans” program at the South Dakota State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 31. The “Salute to Veterans” will be held at 10:30 am (CDT) on the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage.

Thursday is also Military Appreciation Day at the Fair and all veterans and active military personnel get in free all day.

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL DEDICATION



Jessica Davidson, Davison County VSO, recently spoke at the S.D. State Garden Club luncheon. Her presentation was an update on Mitchell's new Veteran's Park. The Park dedication will be held May 26, 2018, in Mitchell.

After her presentation, Davidson joined Mayor Toomey and veterans for the Blue Star Memorial Dedication.

USS SOUTH DAKOTA SSN 790 OFFICIAL CREST

The PCU SOUTH DAKOTA has finalized the design of the official crest for the USS SOUTH DAKOTA (SSN 790). The new symbol includes a wide variety of imagery representing South Dakota and its history, including:



- Mount Rushmore National Memorial, the state's iconic destination and our nation's Shrine of Democracy
- Pheasant feathers representing the state bird
- Coyotes, the state animal and a symbol used by Native American tribes
- A sun shape used on the original 1909 South Dakota state flag
- 13 stars representing the 13 battles fought by the USS SOUTH DAKOTA battleship during World War II
- A T-Rex skull (hidden around Mt. Rushmore), a reference to "Sue" – the largest and most complete T-Rex Skelton found in South Dakota
- A rattlesnake depicting stealth and fast attack readiness
- The boat's motto (in Latin), "Under the sea we rule"

In 2016, 72 students and adults across South Dakota participated in a contest to design the crest. The Commissioning Committee used many of the elements from the contest finalists in the final design. The Commander and Crew of the boat, as well as the PCU SOUTH DAKOTA Commissioning Committee wish to thank all those who participated in the crest contest.

LEFTWICH PRESENTED US/ROC MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMEMORATIVE BADGE

Aurora/Brule County VSO Ron Falor road-tripped to Plankinton this week to present LaVern Leftwich with his US/ROC Mutual Defense Commemorative badge.

Leftwich was unable to attend the ceremony in Pierre last week. Falor read the certificate "In recognition of LaVern Leftwich's contributions to the Republic of China (Taiwan) in its defense of freedom and democracy in 1974, the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) hereby confers upon you, the United States – Republic of China Mutual Defense Commemorative Badge with appreciation."

Falor then presented LaVern with the badge and the certificate that was signed by Jerry S. Chang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Denver.



SENATOR THUNE VIEWS ECLIPSE WITH VETERANS AT THE MICHAEL J. FITZMAURICE STATE VETERANS HOME

Senator John Thune took time out of his busy schedule this week to stop by and visit veterans at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

He also enjoyed viewing the solar eclipse with them!



SDNG WELCOMES SEVEN NEW ARMY LIEUTENANTS

The South Dakota National Guard welcomed seven of the Army's newest officers to its ranks following a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid, Aug. 18.

The ceremony marks the end of Officer Candidate School - the first step in officer training and development - and the beginning of their careers as commissioned officers.

"Today's ceremony marks the culmination of three very intense phases of training that has prepared these officer candidates for the next step in their military career, the profession of a commissioned officer," said Lt. Col. Wyatt Hansen, commander of 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), the SD Army National Guard battalion responsible for conducting OCS.

OCS is taught in a high-stress environment, where candidates are tested academically and physically, both in the classroom and in field environments. Training consists of 16-18 months of drill weekends and two two-week training periods.

The commissioning ceremony included several customs and traditions such as the second lieutenants taking the Oath of Office, being pinned with their new rank and receiving their first salute. The evening's guest speaker was Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG.

"Today you enter one of the most prestigious, challenging and rewarding roles within our nation - that of a commissioned officer," Griesse said to the lieutenants. "It is quite honorable that you have all either enlisted or re-enlisted in the military during a time in which our country is at war. It is even more admirable you have decided to pursue a commission and continue your military service in the officer corps."

The lieutenants will next attend Basic Officer Leader Course, which focuses on their branch-specific training, such as engineering, field artillery, and signal.

"Soon you will be entrusted with our nation's most precious resource - America's sons and daughters," Griesse said. "It will be your privilege to lead them. It will be your responsibility to take care of them. Lead well."



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse, assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota Army National Guard, administers the Oath of Office to seven newly commissioned second lieutenants during a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid.

SDNG WELCOMES SEVEN NEW ARMY LIEUTENANTS (CONTINUED)

The second lieutenants of OCS Class 61, their hometowns, and South Dakota Army National Guard assigned units are:

Second Lt. Ariel Delgado, Sioux Falls, 153rd Forward Support Company

Second Lt. Mitchell Demers, Winner, 211th Engineer Company

Second Lt. Haley Derr, Caputa, 842nd Engineer Company

Second Lt. Michael Hill, Aberdeen, B Battery, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion

Second Lt. Aaron Johnson, Sioux Falls, 115th Signal Company

Second Lt. Dexter Mehlhaf, Vermillion, B Battery, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion

Second Lt. Andreau Miller, Mitchell, B Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion

Concluding the commissioning ceremony, several awards were presented to include:

- * Second Lt. Andreau Miller received the Endeavor Award for demonstrating the highest degree of consistent advancement, perseverance and devotion to duty during the training year.

- * Second Lt. Mitchell Demers earned the Academic Excellence Award by attaining the highest academic rating for the school year.

- * Second Lt. Ariel Delgado earned the Leadership Excellence Award for attaining the highest leadership evaluations during the training year.

- * Second Lt. Haley Derr earned the Army Physical Fitness Award for scoring the highest on the Army Physical Fitness Test as well as the Erickson Trophy, awarded to the OCS graduate with the highest combined overall standing in leadership evaluations, academics, physical fitness and peer evaluations.

- * The Battalion Leadership Award was presented to SDARNG's 153rd Engineer Battalion for the greatest number of officers commissioning from Officer Candidate School.



U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Andreau Miller is pinned by his son, Jude, and father, Daniel during a commissioning ceremony.



U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Dexter Mehlhaf, left, receives his first salute as an officer from his brother, Staff Sgt. Derrick Mehlhaf, during a commissioning ceremony.

STATE VETERANS HOME UPDATE

The South Dakota Arts Council awarded a grant to the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. The grant was used to host Zachary Deboer, a South Dakota Artist for one week. Zach collaborated with the staff and residents to create a piece of art that encompasses the spirit and camaraderie of the Veterans Home.

Zach is a graduate of the University of South Dakota and is the owner of Exposure Gallery & Studios in Sioux Falls.

MJFSVH Director of Operations Randall Meyers was presented a flag from the 153rd Engineer Battalion in Huron.

The flag was flown in Kuwait in his honor on the Fourth of July.

Staff Sergeant Christina Sihrer, Assistant Operations Noncommissioned Officer of the 153rd Engineer Battalion presented the flag on behalf of the Commander of the 153rd Engineer Battalion, Lieutenant Commander Trent Bruce. The flag was presented at a ceremony on Wednesday, August 18, 2017, at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

Since 2015, The Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home team has tenaciously worked to improve the facility's composite score with the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network. Composite scores are derived from 13 National Quality Measures in the long term setting. A lower composite score equates to a better ranking in the state. Utilizing data from April 2016 to April 2017, the facility increased its ranking from 64th best composite score to 9th best composite score in the state.

Congratulations to the staff and leadership of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home for a job well done!



VA TO REVISE STATE VETERAN HOME CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin announced that the VA plans to propose changes to regulations for its State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program to make it easier for states to receive VA funding to construct Veterans Homes in rural areas.

State Veterans Homes provide veterans with nursing home, domiciliary or adult day health care and are owned, operated and managed by State governments.

Currently, the construction grant regulations focus on veteran demographics as well as nursing home and domiciliary bed need within a state, when determining priority group placement based on projected demand for assistance. Unfortunately, this makes it difficult for some rural areas to compete for VA State Home Construction Grants.

In highly rural areas, there could be a 500-mile distance from one State Veterans Home to the next, which gives family members limited options when searching for a conveniently located facility for a veteran family member.

By incorporating a consideration for the need of veterans in rural areas into the ranking priorities for grant applications in the regulations, rural states may find it easier to compete for the limited VA construction grant funding that is available.



“We want to remove the red tape,” said Secretary Shulkin. “Veterans in rural areas need to be able to get nursing home care when it’s needed as close as possible to their homes, families and friends. Changes in the VA regulations can save families from having to travel long distances to visit a loved one in a facility far from home.”

The VA anticipates that the revision of these regulations will be completed by the end of this calendar year (2017). The updated regulations will be available for public comment. The VA is working to ensure that the updated regulations go into effect as soon as possible.

For more information about State Veterans Homes, visit https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Guide/LongTermCare/State_Veterans_Homes.asp.

SFVAHCS FLU SHOT CLINICS

Veterans Flu Shot Clinic schedule. Veterans may also receive flu shots during their regularly schedule appointments.

Sioux Falls:

- 9/29/17 Friday 8 AM-4 PM
- 10/5/17 Thursday 8 AM-3:30 PM
- 10/13/17 Friday 8 AM-4 PM
- 10/18/17 Wednesday 9 AM-12 PM & 1230 PM-4 PM
- 10/25/17 Wednesday 10 AM-2 PM
- 11/1/17 Wednesday 8 AM-4 PM
- 11/15/17 Wednesday 8 AM-4 PM
- 11/30/17 Thursday 8 AM-4 PM
- 12/14/17 Thursday 8 AM-12 PM

Flu shot clinic is located on second floor of the new Primary Care addition. You may take the elevator or use the stairs located near the Primary Care check-in desk.

Aberdeen CBOC:

- 10/18/17 Wed 9 AM-3 PM
- 10/24/17 Tuesday 9 AM-3 PM

Spirit Lake CBOC:

- 10/18/17 Wednesday 12 PM-3 PM
- 10-24-17 Tuesday 8:30 AM-3 PM

Watertown CBOC:

- 9-29-17 Friday 8:30 AM-4 PM
- 10-13-17 Friday 8:30 AM-4 PM
- 10-27-17 Friday 8:30 AM-4 PM

Sioux City CBOC:

- 10-11-17 Wednesday 8 AM-4:30 PM

Wagner CBOC:

- 10-11-17 Wednesday 8:30 AM-4 PM
- 10-18-17 Wednesday 8:30 AM-4 PM





Join Us As We
Honor & Celebrate
Our Past &
Present
Service Members



GRAND LIVING®
YOUR LIFE. UNIQUELY EMBRACED.

AT *Lake Lorraine*

INDEPENDENT • ASSISTED • MEMORY CARE



Join our monthly gathering of military veterans, active service men and women, first responders, spouses, family members and students.

Featured Speaker:
Master At Arms Senior Chief,
James Berrocal, Jr.

WHEN: Friday, August 25
at 2:00pm

WHERE: The Forum Theater
Grand Living at Lake Lorraine
2815 South Westlake Drive

Family and Friends are welcome.
Please RSVP **605.799.1900**

Follow us on



www.GrandLiving.com

Visit our website and take a photo tour of Grand Living at Lake Lorraine.

2815 South Westlake Drive, Sioux Falls

For additional information or to schedule a tour call Kelly Woldt **605.799.1900**

AMERICAN HEROES OUTDOORS

PRESENTS

THE 1ST ANNUAL

VETERANS DAY BANQUET

WHEN

November 11, 2017

Doors Open at 5:00PM

WHERE

Aberdeen Elks Lodge #1046

705 Circle Dr, Aberdeen South Dakota

(Between Conlins Furniture and Skateaway)

WHAT

**FOOD- RAFFLES -GAMES—LIVE MUSIC FROM ABERDEEN'S OWN
*UNION CATTLE BAND***

IN HONOR OF OUR NATIONS TRUE HEROES

MEET THE AMERICAN HEROES OUTDOORS STAFF

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR 2018 ADVENTURES

AMERICANHEROESOUTDOORS.COM



SPONSORS

Royal Flush Hunting Lodge

Great Plains Outdoorsmen

**Wounded Warriors Guide
Service**

**Aberdeen Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau**

Scheels

Hunt FishSD

ICS Transportation

Aberdeen Elks Lodge #1046

**Glacial Lakes & Prairie
Tourism of NE**

South Dakota

TICKETS

Veterans eat FREE!

Free Veteran Raffle

\$5 General Raffle

BENEFITING

American Heroes Outdoors

Upcoming Events

Aug 31—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
 Sept 2—DAV and 727th 13th Annual Poker Run—Brookings
 Sept 8 NCPVA Pistol Shoot—Badlands Gun Range (1600 W. Russell Street—Sioux Falls)
 Sept 9-10—PVA Trap Shoot—Crooks Gun Club—Sioux Falls
 Sept 11—Doug Brown Memorial Pheasant Hunt (Top Gun Hunting Ranch—Howard)
 Sept 11—VA Black Hills Mental Health Summit
 Sept 11—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Brown County Court House—Aberdeen—4:00 pm (CST)
 Sept 13—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Watertown Elks Lodge—600 E. Kemp Ave—4:00 pm
 Sept 14—Watertown Veterans/First Responders Appreciation Day—SD Army National Guard, BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center
 Sept 15 POW/MIA Program—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park—6:30 pm (CST)
 Sept 18—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Wagner SDNG Armory—4:00 pm (CST)
 Sept 22—Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post 628—Sioux Falls (3601 S. Minnesota Ave)—9:00 am (CST)
 Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day
 Sept 25—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—VA Sioux Falls (2nd Floor Primary Care Addition—4:00 pm (CST)
 Sept 26-28 National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CST)
 Sept 25-26—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt
 Sept 29—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CST)
 Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores
 Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)
 Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)
 Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg
 Nov 11—SDSU Military Appreciation Day—Kickoff at 2:00 pm (CT)
 Nov 11—American Heroes Outdoors Veterans Day Banquet—Aberdeen Elks Lodge 1046—5:00 pm (CST)
 Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown
 2018
 Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre
 Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
 Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
 Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
 South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>
 South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
 Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue
 Pierre, SD 57501
 Phone: 605-773-8242
 E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

